



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/627,910	07/25/2003	James E. Staargaard	GVC.00001US	3459

7590 02/06/2007  
Richard W. Hoffmann  
PO Box 70098  
Rochester Hills, MI 48307

EXAMINER
----------

NORDMEYER, PATRICIA L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1772

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/06/2007	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

✓

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/627,910	<b>Applicant(s)</b> STAARGAARD ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Patricia L. Nordmeyer	<b>Art Unit</b> 1772	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 December 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 22, 24, 26 and 29-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 22, 24, 26 and 29-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Withdrawn Rejections***

1. The 35 U.S.C. 112 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph rejection of claims 22, 24, 26 and 29 – 33 in the office action dated September 5, 2006 is withdrawn due Applicant's amendment in the response dated December 8, 2006.

2. The 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection of claims 22, 24, 26 and 29 – 33 as anticipated by Berthelsen (USPN 3,470,598) in the office action dated September 5, 2006 is withdrawn due Applicant's arguments in the response dated December 8, 2006.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 22, 24, 26 and 29 – 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Berthelsen (USPN 3,470,598) in view Riegelman (USPN 5,634,306).

Berthelsen discloses an integral plastic and metal part (Column 1, lines 13 – 15; Figure 1) comprising a metal component (Figure 1, O<sub>R</sub>) and having a first opening defining edges (Figure 1, holes on one side of the casing) and a second opening opposite said first opening (Figure 1, the

Art Unit: 1772

folded edge on the part labeled O<sub>R</sub>) and a plastic component disposed about a portion of said exterior of said metal component (Figure 1, O<sub>B</sub>), a portion of said plastic material disposed through said first opening including a flange extending beyond said edges of said lower opening and into said interior of said metal component for section said plastic component to said metal component (Figures 1 and 13, wherein the flanges are any plastic that flowed through the holes in the metal strip), wherein said plastic component includes at least one integrally formed connection member extending outwardly therefrom, said at least one connection member having an area defining at least one connection portion formed therein, wherein said at least one connection portion is operable to received a fastening member so as to permit said plastic component to be fastened to at least one another component (Figure 13, 15) as in claim 22. With regard to claim 24, the flange is rectangular (Figure 1 and 13, E<sub>14</sub>). As in claim 26, the plastic part includes ribs (Figure 1, the rectangular extension on the lower part of the piece labeled E<sub>2</sub>). The edge of said first opening is curved (Figure 1, holes on one side of the casing), and the flange extends beyond said curved edge of said first opening (Figures 1 and 13, wherein the flanges are any plastic that flowed through the holes in the metal strip) as in claims 29 and 30. As in claim 31, the second opening is defined by a second edge in said metal component, said second edge being folded (Figure 1, the folded edge on the part labeled O<sub>R</sub>). Regarding claim 32, the plastic part includes attachment holes there through (Figure 1, the holes on the parts labeled 14 and 14'). With regard to claim 33, the first opening comprises a series of openings (Figure 1, holes on one side of the casing). However, Berthelsen fails to disclose having a closed cross section defining an interior and exterior.

Art Unit: 1772

Riegelman teaches an integral plastic and metal part (Column 9, lines 26 – 27) having a closed cross section defining an interior and exterior (Figure 18; Column 9, lines 26 – 30) for the purpose of contributing strength to each of the members of the composite (Abstract, lines 2 – 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the applicant's invention was made to have provided a closed cross section defining an interior and exterior in Berthelsen in order to contribute strength to each of the members of the composite as taught by Riegelman.

With regard to the limitation of “for allowing a core tool to be inserted into said interior of said metal component during a molding operation” in claim 22, a recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim.

### ***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 22, 24, 26 and 29 – 33 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Please see the newly presented rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

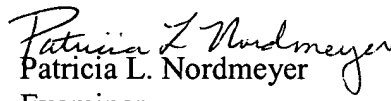
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patricia L. Nordmeyer whose telephone number is (571) 272-

Art Unit: 1772

1496. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. from 10:00-7:30 & alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Y. Pyon can be reached on (571) 272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

  
Patricia L. Nordmeyer  
Examiner  
Art Unit 1772

pln